

ER-4-58414

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SEPT 21 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chairman, Interdepartmental Intelligence Conference
Chairman, Interdepartmental Committee on Internal Security
SUBJECT: IIC and ICIS Requirements on Fissionable Materials

1. Your letter of 15 September 1953 requests cost estimates through 1958 of this Agency's expenditures in discharging its responsibilities for contributing to countermeasures required to detect and defend against the clandestine introduction and detonation in place of demolition atomic weapons in the United States.
2. In its memorandum of 24 March 1953, the Agency indicated the type of activities in which it was engaged that bear upon the problem presented by you and pointed out that in carrying out its normal mission, it would devote considerable assets to the type of countermeasures referred to in your letter of 15 September.
3. We recognize that since the date of our earlier memorandum the problem has assumed new urgency as a result of new intelligence with regard to Soviet advances in the atomic and thermonuclear fields. We are assuming, therefore, that new requirements may be placed upon this Agency, particularly with regard to the penetration of sensitive Soviet installations and possibly with respect to covert operations against shipping and air transport from certain strategic ports to the United States or neighboring countries from which atomic weapons might be secretly introduced into the United States. It is further possible that it may be desirable to assist certain friendly foreign intelligence and security services in building up their own assets in a cooperative program to meet the danger inherent in clandestine introduction of atomic weapons.

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4. It is difficult to determine, pending the elaboration of the overall program, the measure of effort which should be devoted to this particular task. But we foresee the possibility that to meet the task which might be assigned to it in this field, CIA might be required to establish new agent networks, carry out further penetration operations, and initiate further measures of cooperation with foreign intelligence and security services. We estimate that the increased cost which might fall upon CIA in connection with this expanded activity might be on an average annual basis of [redacted]

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Signed

ALLEN W. DULLES

Director

ALLEN W. DULLES

Director

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[redacted] RPH:hw 21 Sept 53

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